Amendments to the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

Claims 1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for treating hepatitis C virus (HCV) in a human subject, comprising

orally administering interferon-tau to the subject at a daily dosage between 10^8 – 10^{10} Units, said dosage effective to stimulate bloodstream levels of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase relative to bloodstream levels of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase prior to treatment, and

continuing to orally administer interferon-tau to the subject in such effective amount until improvement of the subject's condition is observed.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said orally administering comprises orally administering interferon-tau formulated to avoid ~~the~~ absorption through the *tunica mucosa oris.*

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said orally administering comprises orally administering interferon-tau contained in an oral-delivery vehicle effective to release the interferon-tau in active form in the digestive tract.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said orally administering comprises orally administering interferon-tau contained in an oral-delivery vehicle effective to release interferon-tau in the stomach or intestines.

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising administering a second anti-viral agent to the subject.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising measuring the blood level of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase in the subject prior to orally administering interferon-tau.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising measuring the blood level of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase in the subject after orally administering interferon-tau.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising adjusting the dose of interferon-tau.